RULES AND REGULATIONS

MERGER CUP 2025

Teams

* Any teams withdrawing from the Merger Cup 2025 after the deadline of **21st March 2025** will be deducted 3 points from their Institution’s overall points score.
* Before each fixture, a team sheet of players participating must be produced to the officials.
* Players who participate in Merger must be a registered member of that club. If a player is not a registered member, it will result in an automatic forfeit of the match and a loss of 10 points from the overall points score for their Institution, unless previously agreed and confirmed in writing by the QMSU Sports Development Team.
* All players must hold a membership that entitles them to compete for the club (social only memberships etc. are not deemed suitable) and have paid for their membership before 21st March 2025 to validate them to play in Merger Cup 2025.
* Clubs cannot field the same player in two different teams of the same sport in a performance or participation fixture. However, players can compete in different sports as long as they hold a suitable membership.
* All matches are to be played under official BUCS rules or the equivalent if these do not exist.
* The responsibility for sourcing referees and umpires falls to both captains, QM and BL, for that fixture, and will be paid for from both clubs QMSU subs account.

Matches & Scoring

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fixture Type** | **Win** | **Draw** | **Loss** |
| Performance (Max Points) | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Participation (Basic Points) | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Friendly (Equal points) | Both competing teams will receive 1 point for participation. |

The Criteria

* If there are two separate clubs at BL & QM (e.g. Men’s Hockey) whose teams both compete in BUCS then the fixture will be Merger Cup Performance. If one team is 2 or more leagues above the other, then the team in the lower league can determine whether it is to be played to a performance or a participation level.
* Any clubs where one team is in BUCS, but the other is not, the non-BUCS team can decide if they want this to be a performance fixture or a participation fixture. This will be a club decision, not the decision of the CSB or Club Sport staff.
* Any clubs where there is not an equivalent club on either the QM or BL side (for example, BL has a Water Polo club and QM does not), the decision for the type of fixture played needs to lie in the hands of the side that does not have an affiliated club in this sport, and they will decide whether to either not play the fixture as participation or to play the fixture as a friendly.
* If neither team completes in BUCS, this will only be eligible for Merger Cup Participation points and must be agreed by both teams, otherwise this will be considered a friendly.
* Clubs that compete in an intra-club fixture (e.g. fencing) would only be eligible for Merger Cup Performance if all competing team members on both sides were BUCS team performers. If any member of either team (BL or QM Team) did not compete in BUCS for the club this would then be considered a Participation fixture.

Scoring

* 70% of performance/participation fixtures must be played for the Merger Cup to have a result. Failure to reach the above quota will result in no result for the Merger Cup.
* The final Merger Cup result will be decided by accumulating points from all the registered matches played. Whichever institution has scored the most points overall will be declared Merger Cup winners 2025.
* Teams fielding unaffiliated players will result in the match being void and 10 points will be deducted from their institutions final score.
* All Players must bring a valid student ID to play in matches on the day. Failure to provide a valid student identification will result in the individual not being able to play in the fixture.
* All point deductions are at the discretion of the Sports Development Team.

Players

* To abide by the BUCS rules for their specific sport
* To abide by the QMSU Club Sport Merger Cup Code of Conduct
* Not to play under the influence of alcohol or drugs under any circumstances. QMSU reserves the right to breathalyse those suspected to be under the influence of alcohol on the day.
* Players are only allowed to play for the team at their institution that they are registered to during team and player registration.
* Must hold a membership that facilitates them competing.

Transport

* Clubs are responsible for all aspects of the hired coach for Merger Cup travel and will be liable for any additional charges if incurred.
* Coaches will be departing the specified venues at the exact time of departure specified on the booking. Any spectator or player who does not make it back to the bus for these times will be left behind and will be responsible for arranging their own travel back to their preferred destination.
* Pre-ordered coaches through QMSU Club sport will not make additional stops to those outlined in the initial booking by QMSU Club Sport.
* No possessions are to be left on the coach during the day. The coach company or QMSU are not liable for any items lost if left on the coach.
* Clubs must ensure they leave the coach in the state that they found it. Any rubbish left or damage will incur fines charged to the relevant club’s subs account.

Facilities

* Students must not bring any glass into Chislehurst.
* Students are only allowed to consume alcohol on the immediate Chislehurst site. This does not include any of the surrounding facilities as outlined below.
* Anyone found bringing any alcoholic beverages (open or closed) or any glass into any of the Merger Cup external venues, including Farrington School and Chislehurst outdoor netball courts, may lose 5 points per person from your respective institution’s total score.
* Clubs are responsible for ensuring that the playing area and surrounding areas are clean and tidy. Clubs will be charged a professional cleaning fee from their subs account if any excess litter is found in the vicinity of the playing venue and/or the changing rooms.
* Clubs and/or individuals are not permitted to take any Official Merger Cup merchandise or property that has not been bought or paid for previously by the club or individual. Any Official Merger Cup merchandise removed or stolen from the event will be charged to the individual or club for the cost of the item with an additional £50 administration fee.
* Respect for all staff must be upheld at all times.